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"The Mongols: A History," and "The Mongols in Russia," and is an important contribution to the literature dealing with the Mongol peoples.

The Buriats, the most important group of Mongols surviving to-day, inhabit the region about Lake Baikal. It was through this region that the author traveled in the summer of 1900, learning the native language, in order more easily to understand the people and their life. The first part of the volume is devoted to a brief description of the general features of Siberia, and a more detailed account of the long overland journey in Southern Siberia. The aspect of the country, the people and their modes of life is set forth in a most interesting manner. This journey was not without its difficulties, hardships and dangers, but the results here recorded are worth the price.

About half the book deals with the customs and life of the Buriats, particular attention being given to their ceremonials in connection with the usual four important events, birth, marriage, sickness and death. The most striking single item in this discussion of ceremonies is the prominent part played by the animals of the flocks and herds, from which the people gain their subsistence; another instance of interesting relationship between environment and ceremonial customs. The latter part of the book is devoted to a collection of the folk-lore of the people, which, like all such collections, makes intensely interesting reading, especially as it is possible to trace ideas common to the folk tales of various other primitive peoples.

Numerous illustrations, notes and a map add to the value of a volume which called for extraordinary ability on the part of the author in the collection of the necessary material.

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**ELLIOTT, E. G.** *The Biographical Story of the Constitution.* Pp. xi, 400. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

This book undertakes to show the interpretation and development of the Constitution of the United States through the lives, opinions and actions of a number of the most conspicuous leaders in American public life. It includes a general chapter on the "fathers," discussing the work of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and successive chapters on Alexander Hamilton, James Wilson, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, Thaddeus Stevens and Theodore Roosevelt. An appendix reprints a number of important documents bearing on constitutional questions.

As indicated in the preface, the work does not attempt a detailed discussion of judicial decisions, and the author recognizes the difficulties of his method, in tending to overemphasize the part of certain men and of slighting economic and social forces. But, on the whole, the book gives a satisfactory account of the main features of our constitutional history, from a decidedly nationalistic point of view, especially in regard to the period of reconstruction;

and a special word of commendation is due for emphasizing the influence of James Wilson. One important omission is the absence of any account of Henry Clay and his work. More serious is the failure to discuss the developments from the time of Stevens to that of Roosevelt. Nothing is said as to the influence of the fourteenth amendment and its judicial interpretation, the increased activities of the national government, or the decline of the spoils system. No doubt it is more difficult to associate these developments with particular individuals; but the most salient features could have been brought out in connection with such men as Judge Harlan, John Sherman, W. B. Allison and Grover Cleveland.

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**Fite, E. D.** *Social and Industrial Conditions in the North During the Civil War.* Pp. vi, 318. Price, \$2.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

It used to be the fashion for historians of the Civil War to devote practically all their space to military events, with occasional references to politics. With every passing year more and more attention is now being given to economic and social conditions and less to military activity. Dr. Fite's book will help the future historian in making this readjustment, for he has not only shown that the whole energy of the North was not devoted to military affairs, but also that industrial activity was hardly checked and that industrial changes were taking place which were almost revolutionary in character. In agriculture improvements were being made and the production of the staple crops was increasing. The Confederacy had counted on intervention from England because of her interest in cotton. Dr. Fite thinks that Northern wheat prevented this intervention. The railroads enjoyed great profits from an extraordinarily heavy traffic and were beginning the system of consolidation and absorption which plays such an important part in modern life. War time manufacturing was enormously active in consequence of the raising of the customs duties and the increasing demand occasioned by wasteful war. The cutting off of Southern trade changed some of the currents of commerce, but hardly altered their volume. One is surprised to learn that the states were then virtually taxing interstate trade by tonnage and transit duties levied on the railroads. When it was proposed for Congress to exercise its power to regulate interstate commerce in a particular instance New Jersey protested in the name of her state sovereignty.

Dr. Fite has made a large use of source material and for the most part appears to have used it well. However, had he investigated a little further, using the census of 1860, he might not have accepted the popular view that the South was far behind the North in the matter of all kinds of education. Senator Blair long ago pointed out that the South in 1860 had a greater proportion of college students than the North. Unfortunately, she was not doing so well for primary education.

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